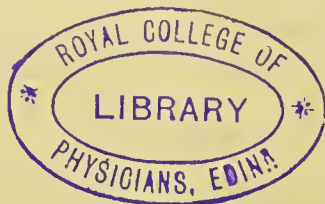






Wm S. R. Peel *Richies Compliments*



## THOMAS HILL PATTISON, M.D.

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THOMAS HILL PATTISON was born at Loanhead on 29th September 1809, and died on 10th July 1885, in his 76th year. He was the younger son of John Pattison, writer to the Signet, by Ann Ferguson, daughter of Thomas Hill, architect, Edinburgh. He was educated at the High School, and afterwards entered as a student of medicine at the University. After the manner of the time he was also apprenticed, and used often to refer to the days of his apprenticeship, and to his master Joseph Bell. Amongst his coapprentices was the late Mr Benjamin Bell, the biographer of his grandfather. At this time he was also one of Dr Knox's pupils, and when speaking of those days alleged that "a part" from the body of "Daft Jamie" had been assigned to him for dissection. In 1830 he obtained the license of the Edinburgh College of Surgeons, and in 1831 the degree of Doctor of Medicine at the University.

After a period of study at Paris he entered the Naval Service of the Hon. East India Company, and, after passing a few years as assistant surgeon, returned to Edinburgh and commenced practice in York Place. At this time his ambition was to prosecute specially the surgical department of the profession, but circumstances changed his views, and engaging in general practice, his attention was ultimately chiefly directed to obstetrics, in which he obtained considerable success.

In 1849 he was admitted to the Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh. In 1842 he joined the Medico-Chirurgical Society, but previously he was one of those who took part in the formation of the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society in 1840. In 1845 he filled the office of one of the Vice-Presidents, and a

like honour was conferred upon him in 1858 and 1864. He was raised to the President's chair in 1862 and 1863, and discharged the duties with much ability. He was the fifth gentleman who filled that position. Dr Beilby was the first president, and then Professor Simpson, who was repeatedly elected to the chair. It was to the Obstetrical Society that Dr Pattison addressed his contributions to the literature of the profession, and from his first paper in February 1847, "On Polypus of the Uterus and Rectum," to his last in April 1871, he made altogether nineteen communications on practical subjects, several of much interest connected with midwifery, but two having reference to infantile diseases.

In his early days Dr Pattison was one of the medical officers of the Dispensary in St James Square. He was, thereafter, for a short time connected with the New Town Dispensary, but in 1853 was appointed one of the acting medical officers of the Royal Public Dispensary. The duties there he discharged till 1868, and during that period also filled the office of medical secretary for a few years, and for three years was one of the physician accoucheurs of the Institution. On ceasing his professional relations he was elected one of the Managers, and Convener of the Visiting Committee, in which position he for several years did much good work in the management. He has bequeathed feu-duties to the amount of £35 yearly to this Dispensary.

From an early period of its existence Dr Pattison took much interest in the Rescue Home, now in St John's Hill. For a long time he acted as its honorary medical officer, and for his kindly services repeatedly received the thanks of the managers.

Dr Pattison was also one of the Board of Examiners of the Royal College of Physicians, and performed the duties most conscientiously, being fully impressed with the importance and honour of the position. His growing infirmities at last necessitated his resigning, but it was a step which grieved him greatly, for he took a great interest in medical students, and used frequently to refer to those who had been his former pupils at the Royal Dispensary. To many his aid was given, not only in practical instruction, but, when necessary, in pecuniary assistance. His interest in the medical student's advancement has, however, assumed a permanently practical form, for one of his generous gifts was the conveying to the Royal College of Physicians two policies of life assurance, which, after the deduction of necessary expenses, are to be realized and invested in terms of the trust deed, by the College, and the proceeds applied "to found and endow a Bursary towards the education of a male medical student in Edinburgh under the direction and nomination of the Council of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh," of which, doubtless, in due time, announcement will be made, as "The Pattison Bursary."

During his lifetime he was a liberal benefactor to the Royal

Infirmary, and gave the necessary amount to furnish a ward, and is understood to have made a liberal bequest to it on condition of a bed being recognised by his name. He also during his lifetime presented the College of Surgeons with £1000. He was also a liberal donor to the Provident Dispensary, with the management of which he was associated in the later years of his life.

Dr Pattison was never married, and in politics was Conservative. As a member of the Free Church of Scotland he has liberally bequeathed to its schemes, and, in addition to several legacies of small amount to private friends, has left a portion of his estate to the University of Edinburgh, and another of like amount to the Free Church College, for the foundation of a Bursary.

For some time past Dr Pattison had been nervously failing both in mind and limbs, and on the 15th of May, after being engaged in collecting the rents from his property, he had an apoplectic seizure. His speech and left side were affected. He partially regained power in the arm, but not in the lower limbs. On the 4th of July there were indications of consolidation at the base of both lungs. As he had previously suffered from mitral lesion it was evident the end was not far distant, but true to the faith he had professed in life, he manifested it to the close, for amongst the last utterances before unconsciousness scaled his lips were the words, "Come, Lord Jesus, soon, and take the old man home."







